

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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INFO ALL US CONSULATES IN MEXICO POUCH

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SUBJ : PRESIDENTIAL VISIT : FEB 7, 1977 PRESIDENT JLP/CBS INTER-
VIEW IN VALLE CHINITOS, SINALOA

1. ALL MEXICO CITY DAILIES FEBRUARY 8 GAVE PROMINENT COVERAGE
TO PRESIDENT JLP'S REMARKS REGARDING (A) UNDOCUMENTED MEXICAN
WORKERS IN US AND (B) US GOVERNMENT STAND ON LEGAL PENALTIES
FOR DRUG TRAFFICKERS. SINCE BOTH TOPICS ARE LIKELY TO BE
DISCUSSED IN UPCOMING PRESIDENT'S MEETING, HIGHLIGHTS OF
INTERVIEW AND COMMENTS FOLLOW.

2. UNDOCUMENTED WORKERS: JLP SAID, "OUR PEOPLE WHO CROSS
THE BORDER ARE NOT CRIMINALS. THEY MAY HAVE VIOLATED
US IMMIGRATION LAWS BUT SHOULD NOT BE DEPRIVED OF THE RIGHTS
GRANTED BY US LABOR LAWS AND SHOULD BE ACCORDED HUMANE
TREATMENT DESERVED BY ANY HUMAN BEING WHOSE ONLY WANT IS
WORK". JLP ALSO COMMENTED THAT SOLUTION LIES IN "CREATION
OF JOBS IN MEXICO" AND IN THE REGULATION OF JOB OPPORTUNITIES
FOR THESE WORKERS IN THE US.

3. TREATY ON EXECUTION OF PENAL SENTENCES: ON PENDING
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TREATY JLP SAID THAT "ALL NORTH AMERICAN PRISONERS
CAN BE EXCHANGED FOR MEXICAN PRISONERS AS SOON AS THIS
IS DESIRED BY THE US." (I.E., AS SOON AS US APPROVES THE
TREATY ON WHICH GOM HAS NOW COMPLETED ACTION.) HE ADDED
THAT "IT MUST BE SAID THAT OUR CONGRESS HAS RESISTED THE
PROPOSAL THAT PERSONS ARRESTED ON DRUG OFFENSES BE RE-
LEASED ON PAROLE. IN MEXICO WE CONSIDER SUCH CRIMES

AGAINST HEALTH TO BE SERIOUS AND FOR THAT REASON WE TEND TO PLACE HARSHER PENALTIES AND MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT FOR SUCH PERSONS TO BE SET FREE." HOWEVER, HE SAID THAT THE PROPOSED EXCHANGE SHOULD RESOLVE THE PROBLEM OF AMERICAN PRISONERS INCARCERATED IN MEXICAN JAILS. JLP SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO CLARIFY WITH PRESIDENT CARTER THE REAL INTEREST OF THE US WITH REGARD TO THE DRUG QUESTION. "ON ONE HAND, THE US ASKS US (MEXICO) TO MAKE A GREATER EFFORT TO CONTROL DRUG TRAFFICKING WHILE ON THE OTHER HAND TO REDUCE THE SENTENCES OF THOSE CONVICTED FOR DEALING IN THESE ACTIVITIES."

4. COMMENT : ON UNDOCUMENTED WORKERS, JLP'S RESPONSE TO HIS TWO-FOLD SOLUTION WAS NOT ELABORATED. WE BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT THE PRESIDENT WAS SPEAKING IN GENERAL TERMS AND HIS REMARKS WHOULD NOT BE INTERPRETED AS SUPPORT FOR RODINO BILL TYPE LEGISLATION OR A BRACERO PROGRAM. NEVERTHELESS, THE TACK TAKEN BY JLP REGARDING PROTECTION OF UNDOCUMENTED WORKERS IN THE US IS PROBABLY SOME INDICATION OF THE STANCE HE WILL ASSUME IN DISCUSSIONS WITH PRESIDENT CARTER NEXT WEEK.

5. JLP'S STATEMENT THAT THE US CAN'T HAVE IT BOTH WAYS REGARDING DRUG TRFFICKING (I.E, STRONG CONTROL MEASURES COUPLED WITH LENIENCY FOR INCARCERATED US CITIZENS) IS AN OLD THEME. ALTHOUGH JLP ATTRIBUTES THE RESISTANCE TO PAROLE FOR DRUG OFFENDERS TO THE MEXICAN CONGRESS, IT SEEMS APPARENT FROM THE STRENGTH OF HIS STATEMENT TO CBS THAT HE PERSONALLY DOES NOT FAVOR PAROLE FOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TRAFFICKERS.
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